



June 30, 2003

CONTRACTING OFFICERS AND BUYERS

SUBJECT: Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program

Let me take this opportunity to outline the Postal Service's commitment to the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act. The program gets its name from its enabling legislation, the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act of 1971, 41 U.S.C. 46-48c. The Act calls on government agencies, including the Postal Service, to purchase certain products and services from qualified not-for-profit businesses that principally employ the blind or severely disabled. When these businesses can meet our delivery and quality requirements at competitive prices they are, by law, mandatory sources.

Two national nonprofit agencies have been established to help the JWOD Committee administer the Act - NIB (National Industries for the Blind) and NISH which focuses on creating employment opportunities for people with severe disabilities. Both agencies seek business opportunities for their nonprofit firms and serve as liaisons between these businesses—the JWOD Committee, and us.

Historically, the USPS has been a strong supporter of the program and a major customer for JWOD supplies and services. I should emphasize that the JWOD Program not only benefits those who are blind or have severe disabilities—and helps them become productive members of society—but it also gives us sources that provide quality supplies and services. JWOD firms have, over all, an excellent track record with us.

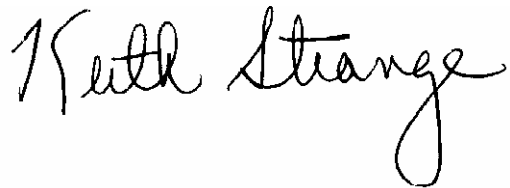
Our national coordinator and central point of contact for this program is John Alan Grimes. You can reach him by email john.a.grimes@usps.gov or telephone 202-268-7917 if you need help or want information. I urge each of you and your staff to learn about JWOD and to find ways these organizations can assist us in providing our customers with top quality goods and services. You might wish to visit a NIB or NISH business and observe their processes and practices, or attend training conferences that they sponsor. It is only through our collective leadership and personal commitment that we can discharge our statutory obligations and maintain our active support and involvement with this important program.

The program also extends to our credit card buyers. We ask your help in making them aware of our responsibility to buy certain products from JWOD sources. To identify whether needed products or services are available from JWOD sources, you can check the JWOD Internet site: www.jwod.com. You can also contact Boise Cascade—a JWOD distributor. As you know, Boise is our national supplier for office supplies, and JWOD office products are available through Boise. Additionally, JWOD custodial supplies are available through Cleanwise and Grainger's.

NIB affiliated business are most active with us in providing a broad range of mail transportation products including boxes, trays, mailbags, and spare parts. The list of products and services NIB firms provide is on their website at www.nib.org.

NISH is active in service contracting. For a comprehensive listing of the various services NISH community rehabilitation programs can provide, check their website at www.nish.org. Their products and services are used throughout our postal facilities.

We in Supply Management serve as the principal proponent of the JWOD Program within the USPS. Feel free to direct any questions or suggestions to Alan Grimes in our Supply Management Infrastructure organization.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Strange". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "K" and a long, sweeping "S".